

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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DRAWING A FACE

Normally all faces have the same basic features: two eyes, a nose, a mouth and two ears. These features are usually located in the same general place on each face. For this reason there are a number of basic rules that you can learn that will teach you how to draw a face. Once you have learnt these rules you can adapt them to capture the different characteristics of people's faces.

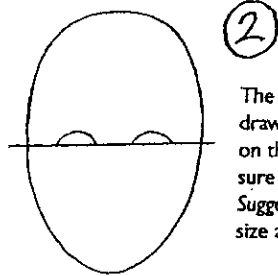
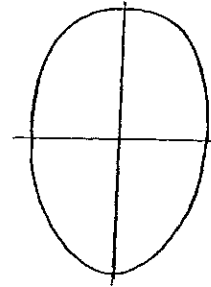
TASK Draw a portrait of an imaginary person

Equipment and materials

You will need a sheet of A4 cartridge paper, 2B, 4B and 6B lead pencils, coloured pencils, an eraser and a ruler.

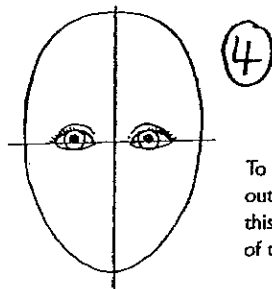
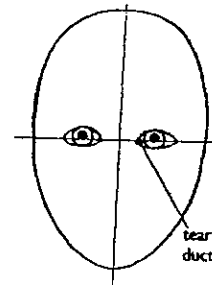
Procedure

- ① On the A4 cartridge paper, draw an upside down egg shape. Draw it so that it takes up most of the page. Using your ruler, draw two soft, pale lines, the first vertically through the centre of the shape, the second horizontally.



- ② The eyes on a head are normally located halfway down the face. To draw the eyes, place a small half circle either side of the vertical line on the horizontal line halfway down the face. It is important to make sure that these lines are in proportion and the correct distance apart. Suggested guideline: make the space between the two eyes the same size as each of the eyes.

- ③ Draw another two half circles; make these the opposite way around and place them up and into the half circles you drew for step 2. Now draw a small full circle placed between the two half circles to create the iris. Draw a circle in each iris to create the pupils. The pupils should be one-third of the width of the iris and be centred in the iris. Add a small arc in the corner of each eye to make a tear duct. Suggested guidelines: Fill in the pupils with black, leaving a small white square within each pupil to create the illusion of light being reflected off the eye.

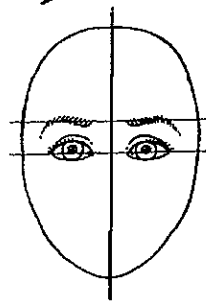


- ④ To form an eyelid draw a line from the inside tear duct, up and outwards. The eyelashes should be drawn with a very sharp pencil. Use this pencil to create the illusion of individual hairs coming from the rim of the eye outwards.

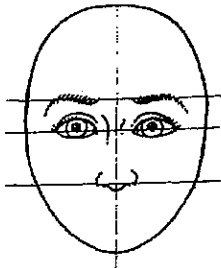
Drawing a face (continued...)

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The eyebrows are placed approximately a quarter of the way up from the centre of the eyes to the top of the head. Using a sharp pencil, draw a number of lines flicking up and outward to create the illusion of the eyebrow hairs.



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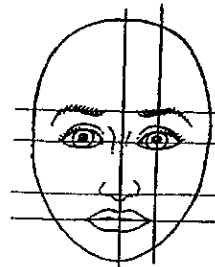


Draw two curved lines vertically down from the eyebrows beside each eye to suggest the bridge of the nose.

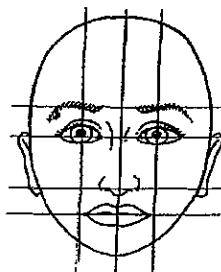
Draw a soft, pale horizontal line one half of the way between the centre of the eyes and tip of the chin. To create the outer edge of the nostrils, draw two small curved lines vertically up from the horizontal line, corresponding with each tear duct. Now draw two curved horizontal lines to form the opening of the nostrils.

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The centre of the mouth is located one-third of the way between the end of the nose and the tip of the chin. Draw a soft, pale line to indicate this position. The size of the mouth is shaped by drawing a vertical line straight down from the centre of both eyes. Draw another two soft, pale lines to give you an indication of what size to make the mouth. The upper lip is often thinner than the lower lip. Start by drawing a curved line to indicate the upper lip, then another to indicate the lower.



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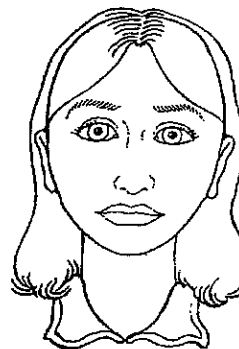


The ears are placed at each side of the face on an imaginary vertical line between the centre of the eyes and the tip of the nose. Carefully draw a curved line on either side of the face between these two points to indicate the ears.

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Hair does not normally stem from the top of the head, but approximately a third of the way down toward the eyes. When drawing the hair make sure that you use your pencil to create hair texture. There are a variety of types of hair. Look around your classroom, or use your family at home to decide what type of hair style you will use for this drawing.

The neck protrudes from either side of the chin and the shoulders are an extension of the neck. Carefully draw two lines to create the illusion of the neck and shoulders. Make sure that you get them in correct proportion to the rest of the face.



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Decide what kind of clothing might be seen on your portrait — perhaps a T-shirt, collar of a dress, a shirt and tie, whatever you wish.

Now use your coloured pencils to add detail to your portrait. The secret to making the eyes look realistic is tone. Use different pencils to add tone to the eyes to make them look as realistic as possible. Include a white dot in the coloured iris; this should be slightly larger than the pupil highlight dot. Use your pencils to tone the lips to make them look more realistic. Add soft tone to the tip of the nose.

* Taken from 'Art is... Making, Creating & Appreciating' Sandra Jane & Max Darby School
Jacaranda Wiley LTD Queensland 1998 Volume 1 + 2. Available at School Supplies ph 89851222